

HOUSE BILL 799

By Pitts

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to receipt of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship by part-time students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-912, is amended by deleting subsection (b) in its entirety and substituting instead:

(b)

(1) Tennessee HOPE scholarship students may enroll as full-time students or part-time students at an eligible postsecondary institution.

(2) A Tennessee HOPE scholarship student who enrolls as a full-time student at the beginning of a semester may drop to part-time status in that semester:

(A) If the student requests and the institution approves part-time status based on documented medical or personal grounds; or

(B) At the choice of the student without medical or personal grounds. However, a student may choose to drop from full-time to part-time status only one (1) time while receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship. A student who chooses to drop from full-time to part-time status shall notify TSAC within fourteen (14) days of the change of status. If a student drops from full-time to part-time status a second time under this subdivision (b)(2)(B), then the student shall be ineligible for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship and shall not be able to regain the scholarship.

(c) TSAC shall promulgate rules and regulations for attendance as a part-time student, the payment of awards to part-time students, change from full-time to part-time status based on documented medical or personal grounds and the medical or personal grounds for which the change from full-time to part-time status may be granted, and the one-time change from full-time to part-time status that may be exercised at the choice of a student under subdivision (b)(2)(B). All rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to students receiving postsecondary financial aid from net lottery proceeds in the 2015-2016 academic year and academic years thereafter.